

Oakland May 10, 1851

My dear daughter,

Your brother has just brought out your letter to your Pa – dated 27<sup>th</sup> of April & I have tried my utmost to prevail on him to answer it this evening – as a longer time has elapsed than I generally suffer to pass without my writing to you & I am very busy making your brother's last pair of pants - but neither he or Molly could bring themselves to write because they do not feel like it - So I must write a few lines to prevent uneasiness I hope you have received my last by this time enclosing a diamond of your cousin John's – for repair - & giving you the news – There has but little transpired since that would interest you

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April your pa gave his consent for your brother to have a small party of young persons – which was quite pleasant – Miss Nancy could not be here as she was afraid of whooping cough – Miss Berry, Kate, Sophy, three Misses Pratts with a cousin of theirs from Ohio – (Miss Antram) & two Miss Bartleys were the ladies – the young gentlemen of the neighborhood with Nace (?) Waller were here unfortunately I had a violent sick head ache - & was compelled to lie down before supper was over & was so debilitated that I scarcely sat up for a week - & Sophie has been with me ever since – she goes home tomorrow - & your brother leaves for Hanover on Thursday next I shall be lonely & wish more than ever for your return – I had commenced some clothing for your brother & my illness prevented my having them finished but I shall have him ready in time to reach college by this day week – The Monday after he leaves I shall commence teaching Molly – Mr. Edwards was here to-day - & I have consented to take his little boy – who is without a mother - & destitute of proper religious instruction - & I do pray God may bless my feeble efforts to teach this poor child the way of salvation –

Miss Nancy & Miss Kate Reburn will also come & they will form a class – not so profitable as a larger school, but much more pleasant – If they complete the school-house I shall teach if not – I shall take no children of the neighborhood – those I have mentioned will be sufficient to urge Molly forward & will bring something every week – but not enough to keep your father in paying for Harrison

Molly's improvement - & your father's release from debt are my present inducements to exert myself in this way – if it pleases God to prolong my health which is now about as usual the rest of the family are all well – Kiss dear Annie for me – tell her we shall expect her & receive her as we do you should she accompany you to our forest home – tell her Molly has been so spoil'd by vacation that I have not been able to induce her to write to any one since it commenced, but when she begins to study – I promise her, & yourselves each a letter from the little idler – Mrs. Waller has just sent Robert over for her & Sophy & they have all gone on a fishing excursion to Eagle Creek -

I cannot say how much pleasure it would give me to see your Aunt Bell & Adair – & your likeness – if I cannot see the original – I know if you do come it will be so hard to give you up & it is so important that you should stay as long as your Aunt Ellen wishes – I know not which I should choose – I can only pray that God will direct what is best – tomorrow is a year since You & I left Oakland for Henderson it has pass'd slowly – but we have all been kept by our Kind Preserver - & shall we not my child commit our ways to Him for another twelve-months, or until it is His good pleasure to reunite us at our own quiet home –

We will my dear Henri say “His will be done” in this as in every thing else that concerns us You must express my grateful acknowledgements to Mrs. Holbrook for all the interest she manifests for both the temporal & spiritual welfare of my beloved child – You are daily remembered at a Throne of Grace & may God bless – the Privileges you enjoy to the salvation of your soul, my dear Henrietta! for without you do love the Saviour, all earthly accomplishments will do but little good – when weighed in the ballance [sic] you will be found wanting, if you are not clothed in the Righteousness of Christ for indeed – we are nothing – can do nothing – must continually go astray - & do what we ought not to do – if we do not ask to be taught of Him, guided by Him - & preserved by Him from all evil It is only through that faith that trusts the Saviour for all - all we need - & entire abandonment of trust in ourselves, that we can ever be happy either here of hereafter – May God aid you by his spirit to exercise such a faith – You have His promise, His word never fails – You know how willingly your parents would give you anything you desired – God says an earthly parent is not as willing to give good gifts unto His children as He is to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him - & again He says – They that seek me early shall find me” – Precious promises my dear Henri! Why should you doubt? Ask His Spirit to teach you & to guide you in the way of all truth – Ask sincerely and you will receive

It is such a pleasure! Such a great blessing to be able to write to you that I never want to stop – but my sheet is well nigh fill'd & besides I must write a few lines to your dear grandma – from whom we have had no news since I last wrote you or from your Aunt Ellen either I shall write to her next week –

The frost has taken the most of our fruit we have a fine prospect for strawberries & raspberries with some gooseberries & currants and a few plums I shall try to save some for Annie & yourself do let us know who will come with you if you come & what your aunt intends doing with herself this summer Love to all your friends. The coral honeysuckle is out & hundreds of purple roses by the little parlor window – I have some rose-slips growing beautifully for you & there are several buds on those I transplanted in the Spring

My early bean have all been kill'd – but we have moreless (???) & radishes planted & peas – that will be fit for us (???) about the middle of July I have but two early chickens but hope I will have late ones – your brother supplies us with and abundance of squirrels & we are making a good supply of butter & have good milk & buttermilk so you see – we will be able to give you some of your prefers when you come home – let us know as soon as you can if you are coming or not – for I find myself counting the weeks already

The servants desire to be remember'd Fare-well, write often May God bless you – my child!

Your own Mother E. A. Adair

Transcribed by Christopher A. Baker, University of Florida, 2008.